

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for collecting and releasing a sample liquid, the device comprising:

a sample collector with a porous and dimensionally stable sampling tip for taking up the sample liquid in the sampling tip, the sampling tip having an indicator zone, which indicates the uptake of the sample liquid by means of a moisture indicator indicating a collecting of a predetermined volume of the sample liquid, the moisture indicator being one of an indicator dye, which shows a change in color in the presence of moisture and a material that expands in the presence of moisture; and

a pressure means for generating an overpressure in the pores of the sampling tip to release the sample liquid from the sampling tip, said pressure means being displaceable relative to the sample collector, and pushing together of said pressure means and said sample collector generating an overpressure in the sampling tip.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said pressure means is provided to bring about the penetration of a reagent liquid from a reagent container into the pores during the pushing together of the pressure means and of the sample collector.

4 - 8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A system with a device for collecting and releasing a sample liquid, the system comprising:

a device for collecting and releasing a sample liquid with a porous and dimensionally stable sampling tip for taking up the sample liquid in the sample tip and a pressure means for generating one of an overpressure and a vacuum in the pores of the sampling tip to release the sample liquid from the sampling tip, the sampling tip having an indicator zone, which indicates the uptake of the sample liquid by means of a moisture indicator indicating a collecting of a predetermined volume of the sample liquid; and

a beaker-shaped reagent container with an impermeable inner surface, wherein the sampling tip and the beaker-shaped reagent container fully enclose a volume when said sampling tip is inserted into said reagent container.

10. (Currently Amended) A process for collecting and releasing a sample liquid, the process comprising the steps of:

providing a sample collector having a sampling tip, said sampling tip being formed of a porous and incompressible material for collecting the sample liquid, said sampling tip including an indicator zone with a moisture indicator indicating a collecting of a predetermined volume of the sample liquid, the moisture indicator being an indicator dye that shows a change in color in the presence of moisture or is a material that expands in the presence of moisture;

taking the sample liquid up by said sampling tip;

stopping said taking when said moisture indicator indicates said predetermined volume

10 has been collected; and

generating an overpressure in the pores of the sampling tip and releasing the sample liquid through the sampling tip.

11. (Previously Presented) A process in accordance with claim 10, wherein the sample liquid is released by the step of generating an overpressure toward the inside into a cavity of the sample collector.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A process in accordance with claim 10, further comprising the step of:

feeding the sample liquid into an analytical and evaluating unit.

14. (Previously Presented) A process in accordance with claim 10, further comprising: providing a pneumatic device to generate the overpressure by displacing the pneumatic device relative to the sample collector and pushing the pneumatic device and the sample collector together to generate the overpressure in a cavity of the sampling tip.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A process in accordance with claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

providing a reagent container and causing a penetration of a liquid from said reagent container into said cavity during a pushing together of the pneumatic device and said sample collector.

17. (Previously Presented) A process in accordance with claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

providing a filter mixer with a porous and incompressible filter reactor, said sampling tip and said filter reactor being complementary and forming a positive-locking connection, a mean pore size of the sampling tip being greater than that of the filter reactor.

18. (Currently Amended) A liquid sampling system comprising:

a sample collector having a cylindrical shape with first and second axial ends, said sample collector includes a sampling tip arranged at said first axial end, said sampling tip being formed of a porous and incompressible material for collecting a sample liquid, said material of said sampling tip collecting the sample liquid by capillary action, an outer portion of said sampling tip extending out of said first axial end, said sampling tip defines a cavity arranged opposite said outer portion, said sampling tip including an indicator zone with a moisture indicator indicating a collecting of a predetermined volume of the sample liquid;

a pressure device connectable with said sample collector for generating an overpressure

10 in said cavity of said sampling tip, said pressure device being arranged at said second axial end of said sample collector.

19. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 18, further comprising:

a filter mixer connectable with said sample collector, said filter mixer including a porous and incompressible filter reactor, one side of said filter reactor being substantially complementary to an outer surface of said outer portion of said sampling tip.

20. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 18, wherein:

said pressure device includes a cylinder defining a chamber, said second axial end of said sample collector and said chamber being shaped to generate said overpressure when said second axial end is inserted into said chamber.

21. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 20, further comprising:

a reagent arranged in said chamber;

a closure arranged across one end of said chamber for holding said reagent in said chamber;

5 a puncturing device arranged at said second axial end of said sample collector for puncturing said closure when said second axial end is inserted into said chamber.

22. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 20, further comprising:

fastening and sealing devices on said sample collector and said cylinder for fastening and sealing said sample collector to said cylinder.

23. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 18, wherein:

said pressure device includes a plunger insertable into said second axial end of said sample collector, said plunger and an inside of said sample collector being shaped to generate said overpressure when said plunger is inserted into said second axial end.

24. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 23, further comprising:

a reagent capsule arranged inside said sample collector;

a puncturing device arranged on one end of said plunger for puncturing said reagent capsule when said plunger is inserted inside said sample collector.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 18, further comprising:

a sealing lip arranged at said first axial end of said sample collector;

a reagent container with an open end and an impermeable inner surface defining a chamber, said sealing lip and said reagent container fully enclose a volume when said sampling tip is inserted into said chamber.

27. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 26, wherein:

said reagent container has a size and shape to press reagent liquid in said chamber into pores of said sample collector when said sample collector is inserted into said chamber.

28. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 27, wherein:

said reagent container includes an overflow channel along an inner side at said open end for receiving excess reagent when said sample collector is inserted into said chamber.

said size and shape of said reagent container presses the reagent liquid into said cavity  
5 of said sample collector when said sample collector is inserted into said chamber.

29-30 (Cancelled)

31. (New) A process for collecting and releasing a sample liquid, the process comprising the steps of:

providing a sample collector having a sampling tip, said sampling tip being formed of a porous and incompressible material for collecting the sample liquid, said sampling tip  
5 including an indicator zone with a moisture indicator indicating a collecting of a predetermined volume of the sample liquid;

taking the sample liquid up by said sampling tip;

stopping said taking when said moisture indicator indicates said predetermined volume has been collected; and

10                   generating an overpressure in the pores of the sampling tip and releasing the sample  
liquid through the sampling tip;  
                  providing a sealing lip arranged on said sample collector;  
                  providing a reagent container with an open end and an impermeable inner surface  
defining a chamber, said sealing lip and said chamber fully enclosing a volume when said  
15                   sampling tip is inserted into said chamber;  
                  providing reagent in said chamber;  
                  inserting said sample collector into said chamber to press reagent liquid in said chamber  
into pores of said sample collector.

32. (New) A liquid sampling system comprising:

                  a sample collector having a cylindrical shape with first and second axial ends, said  
sample collector includes a sampling tip arranged at said first axial end, said sampling tip being  
formed of a porous and incompressible material for collecting a sample liquid, said material of  
5                   said sampling tip collecting the sample liquid by capillary action, an outer portion of said  
sampling tip extending out of said first axial end, said sampling tip defines a cavity arranged  
opposite said outer portion;

                  a pressure device connectable with said sample collector for generating an overpressure  
in said cavity of said sampling tip, said pressure device being arranged at said second axial end  
10                   of said sample collector;

                  a filter mixer connectable with said sample collector, said filter mixer including a porous



and incompressible filter reactor, one side of said filter reactor being substantially complementary to an outer surface of said outer portion of said sampling tip.

33. (New) A liquid sampling system comprising:

a sample collector having a cylindrical shape with first and second axial ends, said sample collector includes a sampling tip arranged at said first axial end, said sampling tip being formed of a porous and incompressible material for collecting a sample liquid, said material of said sampling tip collecting the sample liquid by capillary action, an outer portion of said sampling tip extending out of said first axial end, said sampling tip defines a cavity arranged opposite said outer portion;

a pressure device connectable with said sample collector for generating an overpressure in said cavity of said sampling tip, said pressure device being arranged at said second axial end of said sample collector;

said pressure device including a cylinder defining a chamber, said second axial end of said sample collector and said chamber being shaped to generate said overpressure when said second axial end is inserted into said chamber;

a reagent arranged in said chamber;

a closure arranged across one end of said chamber for holding said reagent in said chamber;

a puncturing device arranged at said second axial end of said sample collector for puncturing said closure when said second axial end is inserted into said chamber.

34. (New) A liquid sampling system comprising:

a sample collector having a cylindrical shape with first and second axial ends, said sample collector includes a sampling tip arranged at said first axial end, said sampling tip being formed of a porous and incompressible material for collecting a sample liquid, said material of said sampling tip collecting the sample liquid by capillary action, an outer portion of said sampling tip extending out of said first axial end, said sampling tip defines a cavity arranged opposite said outer portion;

a pressure device connectable with said sample collector for generating an overpressure in said cavity of said sampling tip, said pressure device being arranged at said second axial end of said sample collector;

said pressure device including a plunger insertable into said second axial end of said sample collector, said plunger and an inside of said sample collector being shaped to generate said overpressure when said plunger is inserted into said second axial end.

a reagent capsule arranged inside said sample collector;

a puncturing device arranged on one end of said plunger for puncturing said reagent capsule when said plunger is inserted inside said sample collector.

35. (New) A liquid sampling system comprising:

a sample collector having a cylindrical shape with first and second axial ends, said sample collector includes a sampling tip arranged at said first axial end, said sampling tip being

formed of a porous and incompressible material for collecting a sample liquid, said material of  
5 said sampling tip collecting the sample liquid by capillary action, an outer portion of said  
sampling tip extending out of said first axial end, said sampling tip defines a cavity arranged  
opposite said outer portion;

a pressure device connectable with said sample collector for generating an overpressure  
in said cavity of said sampling tip, said pressure device being arranged at said second axial end  
10 of said sample collector;

a sealing lip arranged at said first axial end of said sample collector;

a reagent container with an open end and an impermeable inner surface defining a  
chamber, said sealing lip and said reagent container fully enclose a volume when said sampling  
tip is inserted into said chamber.